

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Northumberland Crematorium, Bockenfield on Thursday 19 September 2024.

Present: Cllrs J Day, D Green and P Hantman.
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

39 Apologies for Absence – Cllrs Clarehugh, Davidson and Marshall

Cllr Green Chaired the Meeting in Cllr Marshall's absence.

40 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – None

41 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) – None

42 The minutes of the meeting 15 August 2024 were agreed as a true record.

43 Matters Arising therefrom:

1) Matters arising there from (excluding outstanding actions in relation to NCC)

- a) Lighting on The Peth at roadside – This was added to the LTP
- b) Missing Weldon Bridge signage – National Highways states the missing sign is currently awaiting design and then it will be installed but this may take some time. National Highways has confirmed the relocation of the Bockenfield sign has been added to the scope of a scheme due to be delivered in that location next year. That scheme is Morpeth to Felton Drainage Phase 1.
- c) Bus stop repairs – this work has been completed and a great job has been done.
- d) Field run off at Eshott Village – no action to date and winter is approaching so it will become a problem again. Clerk to pursue – only some of the ditches need work so not a large job Clerk
- e) BOAT at Blackbrook Farm – No action to date. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- f) Felton Cemetery Joint Committee – Policies and Procedures update - pending
- g) A1 Closure for removal of Ash tree due to dieback – still awaiting compensation. Clerk
- h) The Helm bus stop – Arriva are happy to discuss the relocation of this stop if NCC and the PC can come to an agreement. This has been agreed with NCC however they wish to raise this with National Highways to see if they have any concerns.
- i) Eshottheugh Signage on A1 – National Highways has come back with proof of the name being one word for over 200 years. Mr Hogg responded with alternative evidence to National Highways. It was agreed that nothing more could be done in light of Highways response.
- j) Land North East of Felmoor Caravan Park application –The PC has supported previous applications and expansions on these however it has now got to the point that enough is enough and the parish is already majority holiday accommodation. Not objecting to this application undermines the residents who voted on the Neighbourhood Plan to not have further large holiday site so goes against democratic process. The park will have little or no benefit to the Parish as users have everything they need on site. Also the road into this proposed development is inadequate as it currently stands due to the intensive use to the existing caravan park, the zoo and the new holiday let development and the access onto the A1 is bad and an accident waiting to happen. Clerk
- k) Meeting re Pumpkin Pie – this is to take place on 20 September.
- l) Annual Joint Town & Parish Council Conference 3 October – Cllr Hantman to attend.
- m) Bin collection issue at Bockenfield – This is still not resolved. Clerk to pursue.
- n) Verge cutting into West Thirston – Clerk still investigating. Clerk
- o) Windfarm Grant – Clerk investigated whether funding could be used for the footpath at East Thirston with the following response – *“As a PC you are eligible to apply to bring community benefit and enhancements to the area. The ‘evidence of need’ from local people would need to be included in your proposal. By applying, it could be a good tactic to try and push NCC to contribute to the project. The application does need a total project cost so you need to come up with a cost estimate. When applications involve buildings or land, you are required to evidence that all necessary ‘permissions’ have been granted. You might have to include in your proposal that negotiations are ongoing at this stage. The Foundation could award the grant with conditions/caveats on it or give you 12 months to complete the grant spend”*. Deadline is too tight for getting this information together but can look to seeking the information for the next application process. Clerk to check when this will be. Clerk
- p) Airfield Terms of Reference – The Airfield Operators have stated *“The liaison group was so that we had a link to residents via the people elected to represent them. We’d rather not invite*

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individuals as where do we draw the line on a map in terms of who is invited, how do we identify who to invite and on what basis are they involved in the group? People are more than welcome to contact us directly (and they are doing) but the group was a mechanism for us to update and work with the community via those who represent them". The Councillors accepted this but would like to see the Liaison group up and running as soon as possible.

Clerk

q) Northern Powergrid Substation tidy up – This was reported and subsequently tidied up.

r) Sight lines Weldon Bridge/Felton junction – This was relayed to the Longhorsley Clerk who is uncertain as to which junction is being referred to – Clerk to send a map of location.

Clerk

2) Long-term Outstanding issues being addressed by NCC for information

a) Manhole cover at Wintrick (12/2021) – this has been completed

b) Footpath resurfacing request (02/11/23) – This was added to the LTP

c) Repointing of stone wall on the Peth (14/12/23) – Still outstanding.

d) Water running down the Narrow Bank (14/12/23) – temporary works have been undertaken on this footpath until it is determined where the leak is coming from. Antislip surface request has been added to the LTP.

Clerk

44 Report by County Councillor Sanderson - None

45 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

CRAGs launch went well with over 120 people attending from all along the river. There were lots of emails of support which are now having to be disseminated. NWL has stated they do not find out soon enough about housing developments so do not have the money in place to ensure sewerage etc can be installed. However NWL puts their budget in place 5 years in advance.

46 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way –

b) Landscaping –

c) Short term / Medium term / Long term projects –

- Village gateways – Cllr Marshall to speak to farmer re potential location.

- Bus shelters – The request to remove the discarded freestanding road sign from beside the shelter has still not been done by NCC despite reminders.

47 Planning:

To report on any planning decisions: None

Planning applications pending:

20/04177/FUL - Land North East of Felmoor Caravan Park - Extension to existing holiday comprising 139 no. pitches for holiday lodges plus ancillary features including water feature, play area and vintage vehicle museum – objections based on Neighbourhood Plan – re- consultation in progress

24/01531/VARYCO - Eshott Heugh Paintballing Site – variation to a number of conditions following detailed drainage report

24/01770/FUL - Blackbrook Farm - Erection of new agricultural shed

24/02501/VARYCO - Land North West Of Burgham Park Golf Club - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 24/00949/VARYCO for substitution of house type and garage to plot 18

24/02540/FUL - High Park Farm – Resubmission of plans for Change of use of agricultural building to a facility to dry paper pulp to produce animal bedding to include feeder, drum, burner, stack installation and control room. **(23/04081/FUL)**

Planning Issues:

Bockenfield Caravan Park – blue lights illuminating entrance – Public Protection has now stated this is a planning issue despite planning passing it onto PP previously. This is now with planning enforcement to review.

Felmoor Park – Entrance lighting and signage – Public Protection has now stated this is a planning issue despite planning passing it onto PP previously. This is now with planning enforcement to review.

Felmoor Park – Not complying with planning approval for timber cabins – reported to NCC Planning Enforcement again copying in CC Sanderson but yet again no response.

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Update from Eshott Airfield – An email was received from the Operators to state “By way of an update for the parish councillors, we’ve met with building control and an application for regularisation for the café has been submitted. In order to meet the planning condition for the café we need to conduct some exploratory work which I hope will take place next week. To site the waste treatment plant appropriately we’re looking at relocating the toilet block. An application for regularisation of the work started on the new operations building is also in progress. The planning application for the new building is being prepared but we won’t be able to submit this until we can get the availability of ecologists to report on biodiversity net gain. Our planning officer is fully aware of the situation”.

48 Requested Agenda Items:

- 2025 Meetings – 6 Feb, 27 Mar, 8 May, 19 Jun, 7 Aug, 25 Sept, 6 Nov, 18 Dec
- Position re Planning Application 20/04177/FUL – See above
- Traffic Issues through Felton/West Thirston - A meeting is being arranged with National Highways by CC Sanderson to discuss diversions.
- PC Printer – This had to be replaced as the previous printer would only allow the use of HP cartridges due to signing up for the 6 months free ink. There was no information to state that any other cartridges could be used so the Clerk complained to HP and after numerous emails and calls a new printer was delivered that is the same as the existing one but recycled cheaper cartridges can be used on this printer.
- Remembrance Day Wreath – Clerk raised whether the PC wishes to have a natural wreath again so she can ask for this to be made. It was agreed to have a natural wreath.

Clerk

Clerk

49 Correspondence:

- NCC – Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee – 16 September
- NCC – Precept Remittance Advice email
- NCC email re North of Tyne Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Farmer and landowner survey – NCC has requested that the PC disseminates his information to farmers however they should be aware of it as NCC has been attending farming events informing them of this.
- CRAG Launch event invite – 12 September
- Hospice Care thank you email for donation
- Email from Mr Hogg reiterating his points from the last PC meeting
- Email re late landing at Eshott Airfield – this was reported to NCC. It was a non-member landing at 7.30pm and stopped overnight. Seemingly the pilot had been told what time he had to be at Eshott by but still landed late.
- Groundworks UK newsletter - circulated
- CAN News - circulated

50 Finance

(a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £16,631.49 TPC funds and £3,106.33 FCJC Funds totaling £19,737.82. The balance was reconciled with the bank statement and Cllr Hantman signed the bank statement to confirm this.

(b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB200	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 25 hours at £18.58 (£464.50) Home working allowance of 5 weeks (£5.00) James Armstrong invoice for bus shelter (727.00)	£1,196.50

(c) Income - NCC Precept £5,250.00

51 Urgent Items - None

52 Items for next agenda - Draft Budget for 2025/26

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.54pm

Date of Next meeting: 7 November 2024